Mr. S. N. M. RAZVI.—At least in view of all this discussion, do the Government concede that this is an important question ; or do they still entertain any doubt about it ?

Mr. PRESIDENT.—That is a matter of opinion.

Mr. S. N. M. RAZVI.—I want to know whether in the opinion of the Government, this is not an important question. I appeal to the President to ask the Secretary to give a definite answer to the question.

Mr. PRESIDENT.—He has given a definite reply, namely, that it is a matter of opinion.

Mr. S. N. M. RAZVI.—Will the Government at least now agree to constitute a committee of enquiry in view of the fact that the House is unanimously of that opinion ?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—Government have no such idea.

Mr. S. N. M. RAZVI.—Is not the House entitled to that much of consideration at the hands of the Government ?

Mr PRESIDENT.—That is not a supplementary question.

Mrs. H. S. MADHAVA RAO.—This question is being discussed for the past three days. My feeling in the matter is that, if there was anything wrong on the part of any officer, Government would surely punish him. That Mr. Murthy has left certain letters may be true, but the questions that are being put here seem to be without any basis.

Srimathi SUNANDAMMA.—I rise to a point of order. The member is making statements and raising a discussion and not asking questions.

Mr. PRESIDENT.—I am afraid it is so.

Mrs. H. S. MADHAVA RAO.—My only purpose is to point out that these questions are all unnecessary.

Mr. PRESIDENT.—Even that could be done in the form of supplementary questions.

Mrs. H. S. MADHAVA RAO.—Sir, Harold N. Colam is stated to have told Mr. Murthy that he was unfit because he could not defend himself. That has been confirmed by Mr. Murthy himself.

Srimathi SUNANDAMMA.—Is there no ruling on my point of order. Mr. President ?

Mr. PRESIDENT.—Such a discussion at question time is not in order.

Mr. M. N. JOIS.—Have the Government perused the letters of Mr. Murthy as published in the newspapers ?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—Yes.

Mr. M. N. JOIS.—Have they also perused the letter addressed by Mr. Murthy to Government themselves ?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—Yes.

Mr. M. N. JOIS.—Are they both copies of one and the same letter ?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—I think so.

Mr. M. N. JOIS.—In the letters as published in the papers certain blanks were indicated by dots or dashes. Are those blanks indicated in the letter sent to Government also ?

Mr. PRESIDENT.—I would ask the member to consider whether that is also a relevant or necessary question.

Mr. M. N. JOIS.—The dots and dashes are a most imporant feature in this unfortunate affair.

Mr. Bhupalam R. CHANDRASEKHARAYYA.—Who were all the other officers who were present with the Secretary when Mr. Murthy saw him on the day on which he committed suicide ?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—I do not remember.

Mr. Bhupalam R. CHANDRASEKHARAYYA.—Were the Law Minister and Mr. Forbes also present ?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—Might have been.

Mr. U. L. RAMACHANDRA RAO.—Members of the House strongly urge that an enquiry committee should be formed. Will the Government comply with their request ?

Mr. M. G. MEHKRI.—If that question comes up in that form, I shall give an answer.

Extensions of Service to the Chief Justice.

Q.—10. **Sri. PUTTAMMA** (Bangalore District Women's Constituency).—

Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(*a*) when the present Chief Justice was appointed and on what conditions ;

(*b*) how many times he has been given extensions and for what periods ?

A.—**The CHIEF SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT (Rajasevaprasakta B. T. Kesavaiengar).**—

(*a*) 1st August 1934. Salary—Rs. 2,500. Term—Five years. Leave and Travelling Allowance—According to the Mysore Service Regulations.

(*b*) Twice—(i) For two years in 1939; (ii) For one year in 1941.

Sri. PUTTAMMA.—Is there not one Mysorean who is fit enough to hold the appointment of the Chief Justice?

Mr. B. T. KESAVAIENGAR.—There may be. But at the time the present officer was appointed, he was considered to be best fitted for the post.

Sri. SUNANDAMMA.—Is there no efficiency bar operating against too many extensions to officers?

Mr. B. T. KESAVAIENGAR.—There is no such thing. But the normal rule is that officers will retire when they complete 55 years of age.

Sri. SUNANDAMMA.—If repeated extensions are given to officers at the top, will not their subordinates have to stagnate and therefore will they not become dissatisfied and disappointed?

Mr. B. T. KESAVAIENGAR.—It is a matter of opinion.

Sri SUNANDAMMA.—In this particular case, did the officer himself ask for extensions of service or did the Government grant them of their own accord?

Mr. B. T. KESAVAIENGAR.—He did not ask for them.

Sri SUNANDAMMA.—Have similar extensions been granted to any other Judges of the High Court in the past?

Mr. B. T. KESAVAIENGAR.—Notice.

Sri SUNANDAMMA.—Is it under contemplation to give the present Chief Judge any further extensions or is the present extension going to be the *last*?

Mr. B. T. KESAVAIENGAR.—It is not yet time to consider that question.

Sri. SUNANDAMMA.—What is the decision likely to be when that time arrives?

Mr. B. T. KESAVAIENGAR.—I cannot foresee that just now.

Mr. H. HUSSAIN ALI BEIG.—Would the retirement of that officer have led to any very serious consequences?

Mr. B. T. KESAVAIENGAR.—I cannot say.

Mr. H. HUSSAIN ALI BEIG.—If so, what were the special reasons for extending the services of this officer more than once?

Mr. B. T. KESAVAIENGAR.—It was considered desirable to keep him on for some time longer in public interests.

Mr. H. HUSSAIN ALI BEIG.—Was there anything important to be done by him?

Mr. B. T. KESAVAIENGAR.—The work of the Chief Justice is certainly very important.

Mr. H. HUSSAIN ALI BEIG.—Will it not act as a hardship to the subordinate officers if the services of the officer at the top are repeatedly extended?

Mr. B. T. KESAVAIENGAR.—Personal considerations should not prevail in such matters. In the interests of efficient discharge of public business, such considerations will have to be subordinated.

Mr. H. HUSSAIN ALI BEIG.—Could not the same degree of efficiency be expected of any others?

Mr. B. T. KESAVAIENGAR.—I cannot answer that question.

Mr. H. HUSSAIN ALI BEIG.—What was the age of the officer at the time of his first extension?

Mr. B. T. KESAVAIENGAR.—Sixty-three years

Mr. H. HUSSAIN ALI BEIG.—What is the age of superannuation in the case of officers generally?

Mr. B. T. KESAVAIENGAR.—Sixty in the case of Judges of the High Court and 55 in the case of others.

Mr. H. HUSSAIN ALI BEIG.—Why is this particular officer retained even after his 60th year?

Mr. B. T. KESAVAIENGAR.—That is a contract appointment.

Mr. H. HUSSAIN ALI BEIG.—Even according to the terms of the contract, have the Government committed themselves to give him repeated extensions?

Mr. B. T. KESAVAIENGAR.—No.

Mr. H. HUSSAIN ALI BEIG.—If so, why were extensions given? Were they due to any considerations of a personal nature?

Mr. B. T. KESAVAIENGAR.—No. As already stated, it was considered necessary to extend his services.

Mr. S. N. M. RAZVI.—Are extensions granted only to officers holding contract appointments or to others also under any general rule ?

Mr. B. T. KESAVAIENGAR.—Not as a rule. In cases where it is considered necessary to extend the services of a particular officer, extensions are granted.

Mr. S. N. M. RAZVI.—So does it mean that to whomsoever Government like, they give extensions ?

Mr. B. T. KESAVAIENGAR.—It is not a question of liking. It all depends upon the needs of the situation, the importance of the work which the particular officer is doing and so on.

Mr. S. N. M. RAZVI.—Similarly when questions relating to the extension of services of Mysoreans also come up, will the Government consider them with equal sympathy ?

Mr. B. T. KESAVAIENGAR.—Yes. That has been so in many cases.

Mr. S. N. M. RAZVI.—Will the Government be equally sympathetic in future also ?

Mr. B. T. KESAVAIENGAR.—I cannot say anything for all time to come.

Mr. PRESIDENT.—We should not discuss claims of individuals on the floor of the House. And particularly in the case of judicial appointments, the less we discuss the matter, the better.

Mr. S. N. M. RAZVI.—I am not raising objection to anything done. But I wish to plead that Mysoreans also should receive equal consideration.

Nawab SHER KHAN.—Are the Government aware that after the advent of the present Chief Justice, disposal of cases in the Judicial Department has been very speedy ?

Mr. B. T. KESAVAIENGAR.—That is not a supplementary question.

Nawab SHER KHAN.—If an officer is considered to be very efficient, is it not usual to extend his services after the age of superannuation ?

Mr. B. T. KESAVAIENGAR.—Yes, according to the exigencies of service.

Mr. K. CHENGALARAYA REDDY.—What was the age of the officer when he was given a second extension ?

Mr. B. T. KESAVAIENGAR.—He was 65.

Mr. K. CHENGALARAYA REDDY.—Before coming to Mysore, was he not a Judge of the Madras High Court ?

Mr. B. T. KESAVAIENGAR.—Yes.

Mr. K. CHENGALARAYA REDDY.—What is the age of superannuation for High Court Judges in British Indian Provinces ? Is it 60 ?

Mr. B. T. KESAVAIENGAR.—Notice.

Mr. K. CHENGALARAYA REDDY.—Did he retire from the British Indian Service in the usual course or did he resign there with a view to taking up service here ?

Mr. B. T. KESAVAIENGAR.—Notice.

Mr. K. CHENGALARAYA REDDY.—If he had retired, he would have completed his 60th year, would he not ?

Mr. B. T. KESAVAIENGAR.—He was 58 at the time of his appointment here. His date of birth has been given as 18th January 1876.

Mr. K. CHENGALARAYA REDDY.—To begin with, did he apply for appointment in the State, or did the Government themselves offer a place to him ?

Mr. B. T. KESAVAIENGAR.—Notice. I have to say that it is not the practice to invite applications for such high appointments.

Mr. K CHENGALARAYA REDDY.—Then, on what basis are the selections made in such cases ?

Mr. B. T. KESAVAIENGAR.—On the basis of efficiency, experience, capacity and reputation.

Mr. K. CHENGALARAYA REDDY.—For what special reasons are the Government appointing men who are retired elsewhere on the ground of superannuation ?

Mr. B. T. KESAVAIENGAR.—That is not a supplementary question.

Mr. K. CHENGALARAYA REDDY.—What is the pay of the officer now ?

Mr. B. T. KESAVAIENGAR.—Rs. 2,500 per month.

Mr. K. CHENGALARAYA REDDY.—What is the pay as provided for in the Budget for 1941-42 ?

Mr. B. T. KESAVAIENGAR.—Rs. 2,500 for two months and Rs. 2,000 for the remaining 10 months.

Mr. K. RAMANNA.—The Chief Justice is appointed by His Highness the Maharaja. Can the members of the House discuss such appointments on the floor of the House?

Mr. PRESIDENT.—I am also trying to impress that aspect of the question on the members. The original question was quite unobjectionable. But supplementary questions are being asked without any regard as to where the line of demarcation has to be drawn.

Mr. K. CHENGALARAYA REDDY.—I am only asking about the provision made in the budget.

The MINISTER for REVENUE and FINANCE (Rajamantrapravina K. V. Anantaraman.)—The Comptroller provides amounts on the basis of orders existing at the time. The term of the present officer was to include two months of the new year and so he provided Rs. 2,500 for that period. For the rest of the year, he provided at Rs. 2,000 because he was not aware that the services of the officer would be extended.

Mr. K. CHENGALARAYA REDDY.—Did the Comptroller know that the future incumbent in office would get only Rs. 2,000?

Mr. B. T. KESAVAIENGAR.—Yes, because that is the sanctioned pay of the post.

Mr. K. CHENGALARAYA REDDY.—Supposing the war had not broken out, would not the officer himself have asked for retirement?

Mr. B. T. KESAVAIENGAR.—That is more than I can say.

Mr. K. CHENGALARAYA REDDY.—Is it not a fact that because of the prevailing war conditions he cannot return to his country and could that be the reason for extending his services?

Mr. PRESIDENT.—That is not a proper question to ask.

Mr. K. CHENGALARAYA REDDY.—Has he not said in one of the judgments that "Truth is only a catch-word in this country" and thus cast an aspersion on the nation as a whole?

Mr. PRESIDENT.—That question is distinctly irrelevant and not permissible.

Mr. Bhupalam R. CHANDRASEKHARAYYA.—Is there any rule or convention that the Chief Justice of the State should always be an European?

Mr. B. T. KESAVAIENGAR.—No.

Mr. Bhupalam R. CHANDRASEKHARAYYA.—Is there any pressure from higher authorities that an European Chief Justice should be appointed?

Mr. B. T. KESAVAIENGAR.—No.

Mr. Bhupalam R. CHANDRASEKHARAYYA.—Have representations been made to the Imperial Government that this should be a condition precedent to the retrocession of the Civil and Military Station, Bangalore?

Mr. B. T. KESAVAIENGAR.—Notice.

Mr. Bhupalam R. CHANDRASEKHARAYYA.—Will the Government be good enough to make the information available to this House before the close of the session?

Mr. B T. KESAVAIENGAR.—If the question comes up again in any connection, we shall let you know.

Mr. Isthuri SAMPANGI RAMIAH.—Is it a fact that after this officer was appointed, a large number of pending cases were disposed of and the disposal of the current cases has been expedited?

Mr. B. T. KESAVAIENGAR.—Yes, and that is why he is continuing.

Mr. S. C. MALLIAH.—Is it not a fact that this officer's term has been extended, as in a few other cases, in the interest of public service and not on any personal considerations?

Mr. B. T. KESAVAIENGAR.—Yes.

Mr. K. VENKATARAMIAH.—Has it come to the notice of the Government that as regards speedy disposal of cases the Mysore High Court stands first in the whole of India?

Mr. B. T. KESAVAIENGAR.—No.

Mr. C. RAMASWAMY CHETTY.—How is it that our Government are so fond of giving extensions to foreigners in service while the same consideration is not shown to officers who are sons of the soil?

Mr. PRESIDENT.—(No answer).

SPECIAL REPRESENTATION.

Necessity to control Prices of Yarn and Cloth.

At this stage **the PRESIDENT** informed the House that he had received